

Nothing in Motion Pictures Nor in Fiction More Surprising, More Dramatic Than the Real Life Career of This Beautiful Young Adventuress

man method of employing young and attractive women who could mingle in company where men of unknown antecedents would not be confidentially admitted. To the American mind the beautiful young woman spy, as adept at intrigue as at purposeful amours, was more a creation of fiction than of fact.

Yet Ambassador James W. Gerard, in his reports from Berlin before our entry into the war and after his return from his post, had warned this government of the spy danger. Something of the brazenness and thoroughness of Germany's system of espionage, something of a hint of what to expect at Washington from the Storch band, is told in Ambassador Gerard's latest book, "Face to Face with Kaiserism." In this

the world. For a long time after the beginning of the war I was too busy to write the weekly report of official gossip usually sent home by diplomats. I suppose the Germans searched our courier bags for such a report vainly. Anyway, its absence finally got on the nerves of Zimmermann (of the Foreign Office) so much that one day he blurted out, "Don't you ever write reports to your government?"

"Important sealed letters are opened by spies as follows: By inserting a pencil or small round object in the envelopes, steamed a little if necessary, the envelope is opened at the end of the flap and the contents pulled out without disturbing the seal. The contents are then read, put in their place again, the end flap reinserted, a little gum used and the envelope is intact as before.

"The only safe way to seal an envelope is by use of five seals, one on each corner and one in the centre of the back of the envelope. Even then a clever spy can open the letter, read the contents and seal it again. This is done by cutting through the seals with a hot razor. The divided seals are then united by pressing the hot razor against each side of the cut and then pressing the two parts of the cut seal together.

"Poisonous propaganda and spying are the twin offspring of Kaiserism. This propaganda is back by enormous sums of money appropriated by the German Government. The United States has been at great disadvantage because our officials have not had the authority, the means or

be revealed in these pages next week, prove her to have been even more dangerous to the peace of the world, perhaps, than a whole German army corps.

Before Mme. Storch began her espionage in this country a complete spy system had been organized in the United States, according to information gathered by the Secret Service working under the direction of United States District Attorney Peter C. Cannon, of Rhode Island. The principal members of this band were women of Mme. Storch's type. At the head of this organization was a young German baroness, who, it is evident, prepared the way for Mme. Storch to take up the work later.

This baroness maintained homes in a small Massachusetts town, not far from Boston, and also in a neighborhood close to Fort Ethan Allen, in Vermont. She was a familiar figure at the Ritz-Carlton and Waldorf hotels, in New York City. At these homes she received regularly each week long reports, delivered sometimes in person and sometimes by courier, from her subordinates throughout the East. She learned from these just what was going on in almost every munitions plant, in the United States, the military activities at every strategic military centre and the varying trend of war preparations.

A German Baroness Spies on Newport's Naval Defenses

Once the baroness even was landed by a confederate on Rose Island, near Newport, where the war heads, gunboats, torpedoes and high explosives are stored for the Atlantic battleship fleet. She succeeded in examining the island arsenal thoroughly with high power marine glasses, and was able to report the exact extent of the reserve ammunition supply of this character to those who could pass the information on to the German General Staff.

Federal Secret Service agents, acting in co-operation with British and Canadian representatives, got so far along the trail of the baroness as to intercept letters sent by her to a confederate in New York City. In these letters the baroness gave directions as to the amount of money to be paid to other women in the band.

It was discovered by the British agents that a spy organization with wide ramifications, reaching into every part of Canada where docks, munition plants, mobilization centres and barracks are located, was directed from the house in Vermont which the baroness often visited.

Various methods of communication with Germany have been used by those who were engaged in the same work assigned to Mme. Storch and the baroness. Ambassador Gerard's discovery of the submarine post between the Spanish coast and Germany was a clue to one successful method of sending reports direct from the United States to Berlin.

The most popular base of operations for connection with this submarine post, the spy hunters have learned, has always been Cuba. For a long time the Department of Justice was mystified by accumulative evidence that despite the censorship of mails and the careful inspection of all persons crossing from Key West to Havana, accounts of almost every war move made in this country, or every contemplated action, such as the enlargement of the draft or the increase of aeroplane production, were delivered in Berlin sometimes before official announcements were made from Washington.

Eventually it was found that innocent looking newspapers carried this information from Havana to Spain, and then via submarine post to Germany, written on their white margins with chemicals which remained invisible until treated with other chemicals.

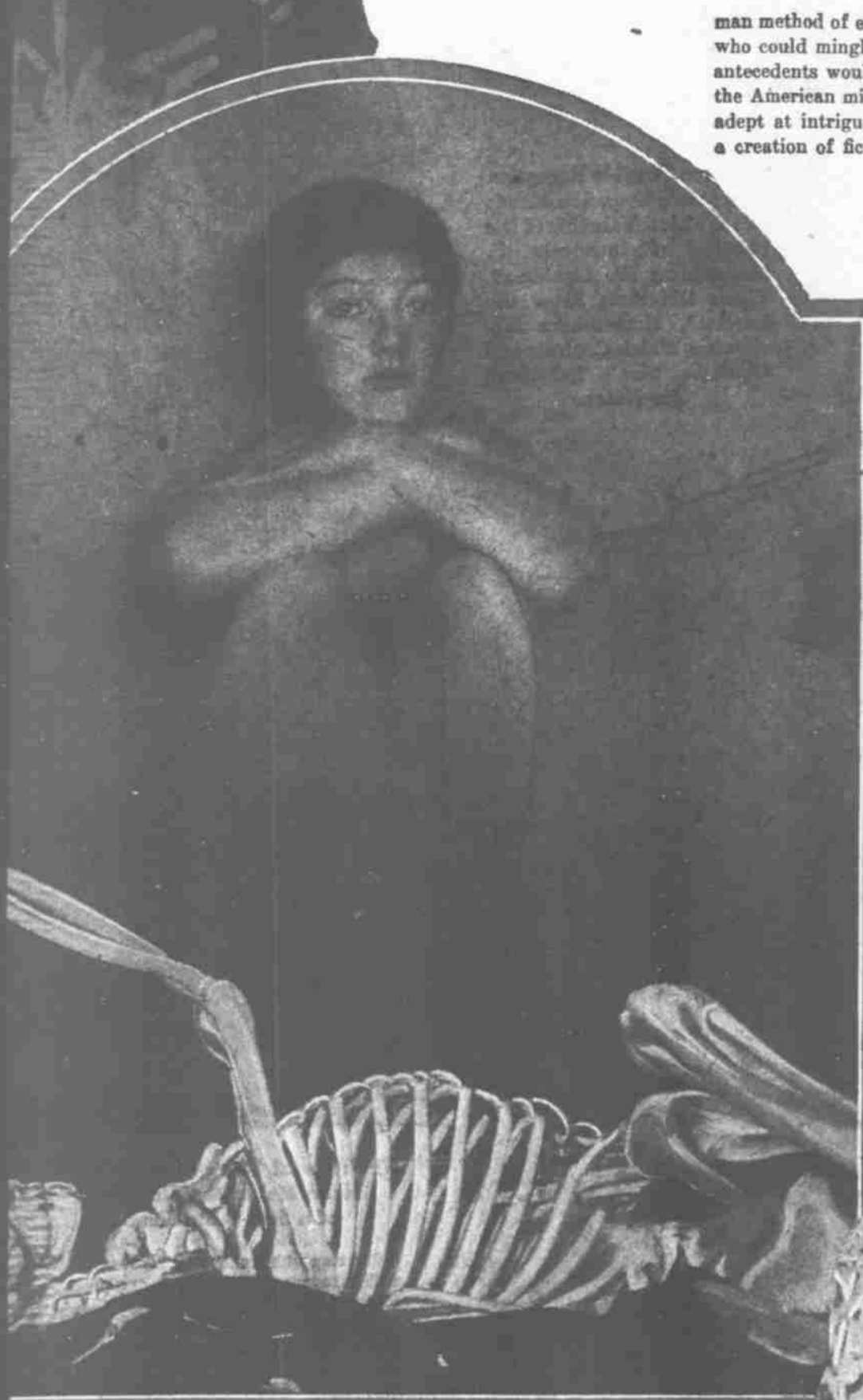
The fluid used by the spies in this country for writing their reports upon the margin of newspapers was a mercurous nitrate solution, which could be written with so lightly that the pen did not even leave a scratch. What Mme. Storch, the baroness or others of the band wished to tell the German General Staff was written with this solution on a newspaper, which might be mailed without suspicion to agents in Havana. No censor could find upon it a suspicious mark.

When the paper had been carried to Spain and there given to the commander of a submarine, which landed at an obscure point along the coast, it was soon after in German military hands.

To bring the writing out sal ammoniac and quicklime is placed in a large glass jar. After a little heating the contents of the jar produces a pungent gas of ammonia. When the newspaper is dropped into the jar the ammonia fumes form a precipitate of black mercurous nitrate, which brings the writing on the margin into bold black relief. When this method of transferring information was discovered others promptly supplanted it.

The baroness soon learned that she was being watched, and was wily enough to disappear. The search for her eventually was obscured in the even more important work of setting the trap for Mme. Storch.

(To Be Continued Next Sunday)



VAMPIRE AND VICTIM

The remarkable painting "Sphinx," by Professor William Sergeant Kendall, Director of the Yale University School of Fine Arts.

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de Victoria as esting commentary which the German its trusted agents She entered the 1, it is said. She ter of an officer in d in good society She had not trav- k no language but

erman Intelligence urse in foreign lan-pleted this course rland, to attend a pon modern meth-ght be prepared to eant plotters in the

Thus equipped Mme. de Victoria appeared in Paris, where she adopted the name Mme. de Vusiere. She is said to have been exceedingly friendly with various statesmen in Paris, London, Madrid and Rome, always turning these friendships to account for Germany when they could supply her with information or aid her in influencing diplomatic affairs.

Just before her start for America Mme. de Victoria was married to a Chilean, Jose Victoria, at Hamburg, Germany. This marriage, it has been learned, was arranged by the chiefs of the German spy system that she might enter the United States and remain here as long as she wished as the wife of a subject of Chile, a neutral nation friendly to the United States. It was after this marriage she adopted the name de Victoria. She was supplied with passports which gained her admittance to this country as the wife of a Chilean.

In the band of which the government soon found Mme. Storch to be the centre there were also a number of foreign men, Count de Cleremont, Count de Beville and various others, nearly all of whom now are safe in prison. These men, aided by the veneer of extravagant manners indigenous to the cosmopolitan cities of Europe, found easy access to social circles which were fruitful fields for their nefarious schemes.

Dr. Walter T. Scheele and the German financier, Franz von Rintelen, both of New York, now are in a Federal penitentiary, paying for their plots to place bombs aboard ships carrying supplies for the allies. It was around them the spy band in the East centered itself. The government agents have discovered that Mme. de Victoria, associate of Mme. Nix and Mme. Storch, had been working among Sinn Fein sympathizers to persuade some of them to enlist in the English navy that they might place bombs on British warships. Her plans were almost identical with those followed by von Rintelen and Dr. Scheele, proving that they emanated from the same master plotter.

When the Federal officials began their hunt along the trail of Mme. Storch the general public did not realize the extent of the German spy system in America, and knew little of the Ger-



Mme. Nezie Storch, from photograph taken in Toledo, Spain.

man method of employing young and attractive women who could mingle in company where men of unknown antecedents would not be confidentially admitted. To the American mind the beautiful young woman spy, as adept at intrigue as at purposeful amours, was more a creation of fiction than of fact.

book, telling of his experiences, even under the protection of the United States Embassy at Berlin, before the United States entered the war, he writes: "The Germans use more spies than all the other nations put together. It has been very easy for German agents in America to communicate with Germany through submarine post from Spain to Germany, the letters from America being sent to Cuba and thence on Spanish boats to Spain.

"At all times since the war the Germans have had a submarine post running direct from Germany to Spain. My cables to and from the State Department passed through our legation at Copenhagen, and, of course, if the Germans knew our cipher, these messages were read by them.

"German spies are adepts at opening bags, steaming letters—all the old tricks. The easiest way to baffle them is to write nothing that cannot be published to

the money to fight German propaganda. Bernstorff in this country disposed of enormous sums for the purpose of moulding public opinion."

It was this enormous supply of money of which Ambassador Gerard speaks that supported the lavish extravagances of Mme. Storch, that permitted her to live as a princess, to gratify every whim, to bend to the pretty feet of which she was so proud the men from whom she hoped to lure a service for her masters at Berlin.

The full, amazing details of the plotting in which Mme. Storch was engaged in this country are locked away in the files of the Department of Justice at Washington. They are of such a startling nature that the government has thought best to keep their full import from the public as a matter of precaution until after the war. What we are permitted to know, and which will